

Abstract of the Disclosure

A heart assist device, for example a left ventricular assist device (LVAD) including a blood pump, is controlled on the basis of a ratio of the pump's speed and the patient's heart rate. The patient's activity and a required cardiac assist level can be defined via the heart beat rate of the patient and a rotational speed of the LVAD pump. Controlling the pump of the heart assist device based on the pump speed and the patient's heart rate enables the heart assist device to respond to changes in the patient's activity level.